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Q1

Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS I · 10 marks · Indian Heritage and Culture

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Core demand of the question

- Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment
- Cover threats, laws, institutions, living crafts, and community care
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Temples, caves, bronzes, manuscripts, and crafts form one heritage, not two separate worlds.

Theft, climate, and urban pressure make delay costly because originals cannot be replaced.

Laws such as **AMASR and the Antiquities Act** need faster enforcement and provenance.

UNESCO fame without crowd control can harm the site it names.

Craft apprentices and local care must sit beside museum conservation.

Flow diagram

Art heritage -> Monuments bronzes manuscripts

Art heritage -> Living crafts

Theft climate cities -> Art heritage

Monuments bronzes manuscripts -> ASI law community

Living crafts -> ASI law community

ASI law community -> Safeguard now

Conclusion

- Fund preventive conservation, craft schools, and legal title of objects in one chain, from village to museum.
- Treat heritage as a public good in city plans, not as leftover land after a flyover.

Indian art heritage is both monument and living skill, and both are under time pressure from theft, weather, and the market. Law and listing help only when communities, craft, and conservation share the same map.

Facts & figures

AMASR Act

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act that protects notified monuments and their prohibited and regulated zones.

Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972

Central law on registration, export control, and trade in antiquities.

Ajanta and Ellora

UNESCO rock-cut complexes in Maharashtra whose murals and sculpture are a core of Indian art history.

Chola bronzes

Lost-wax icons from the Tamil country, widely collected and often targeted by theft.

INTACH

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, a major non-state listing and conservation body.

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